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his career. To those who knew him only from the printed page, it will be surprising to learn that overshadowing all his fine critical acumen was a spiritual quality which displayed itself in an almost poetic vision of the past and which lightened his whole character with a sympathetic appreciation of everything that appealed to his fellow-men. Monsignor Brann's *Personal Reminiscences* show us the schoolmaster, the friend, the father, the husband, and the scrupulously observant Catholic. Monsignor Brann tells us that he was one of the best known men in New York. "If you could have had the pleasure of accompanying him on his long walks, as I often had, you would frequently observe eminent judges, brainy lawyers, clever physicians, progressive merchants, and prominent men of letters, reverently saluting their old professor, prompted thus to show their respect and love for him who as a teacher had no equal and as a Christian gentleman had no superior."

The United States Catholic Historical Society has lost its most prominent figure; but it is certain that those who follow in his footsteps will be influenced, by his strong devotion to historic truth and his love for the Church, in carrying on the work to which he dedicated a quarter century of unceasing activity. He has left the Society a legacy of very important articles and publications, all of which the historians of the Catholic Church in the United States must use if they would keep abreast with the latest work in this field.

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**A Diplomat's Wife in Mexico.** By Edith O'Shaughnessy (Mrs. Nelson O'Shaughnessy). Letters from the American Embassy at Mexico City, concerning the dramatic period between October 8, 1913, and the breaking off of diplomatic relations on April 23, 1914, together with an account of the occupation of Vera Cruz. Illustrated. New York and London: Harper and Brothers, 1916. Pp. ix+347.

Long after the reports and despatches of official and unofficial diplomats concerning the relations of the United States with Mexico during this trying time will have passed into oblivion, these letters will be read, not only because of the picture they convey of an eventful and enigmatic period, but because of their transcendent literary merit. The Diplomat's wife shows she

is lacking neither in tact nor diplomacy. No weighty diplomatic secrets are revealed, and the purely diplomatic questions are handled in a detached impersonal manner such as might be the expected in the case of any extremely clever person, whose relations with the events described was not through the representative of one of the great powers involved in the struggle. Even where diplomatic personages and their doings are concerned, however, the letters are not colorless nor without point. They give a picture of Victoriano Huerta, then President of Mexico, which if not at all times flattering will save his memory from the stigma of being an unmitigated scoundrel and monster. His patient struggles to cope with a situation over which he had little control and his manifest unselfishness where the interests of his country were at stake, will do much to obliterate many of his shortcomings.

Apart from the interest which the book offers in the light it throws on the most dramatic episodes in the recent relations of the United States and Mexico it has much of the charm of a novel or the narrative of an explorer. The author writes not only with a knowledge of Mexico but with sympathy for the people and their customs. It will come as a surprise to many persons that there are in Mexico so many truly estimable and cultured people. The contrast offered by Mexico City, its quaint and alluring character, its quiet glorious surroundings and its enormous possibilities, with the turmoil and anarchy of the rest of the Republic as revealed in this book intensifies the regret that no stable government seems possible in a land so rich in resources.

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**Addresses at Patriotic and Civic Occasions by Catholic Orators.**

New York: Joseph F. Wagner, 1915. 2 Vols. Pp. iv+295;  
iii+312.

The subjects dealt with in these speeches, addresses and sermons are a valuable guide to the questions in which the Catholics of the United States are at present most deeply interested. They deal mainly with patriotism and religion. Through nearly all of them runs an apologetic tone, which reveals the fact that in recent years Catholics, notwithstanding their many